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**OCT 29 2004**

**OFFICE OF PETITIONS**

In re Application of	:	
Fieckowsky et al.	:	
Application No. 10/648,819	:	DECISION GRANTING
Filed: 25 August, 2003	:	PETITION
Atty Docket No. AFFYP008C2	:	

This is a decision on the petition filed on 24 September, 2004, which is treated as a petition filed under 37 CFR 1.78(a)(3) to accept an unintentionally delayed claim under 35 U.S.C. § 120 for the benefit of the prior-filed nonprovisional applications set forth in the concurrently-filed amendment.

The petition is **GRANTED**.

A petition for acceptance of a claim for late priority under 37 CFR 1.78(a)(3) is only applicable to those applications filed on or after 29 November, 2000. Further, the petition is appropriate only after the expiration of the period specified in 37 CFR 1.78(a)(2). In addition, the petition under 37 CFR 1.78(a)(3) must be accompanied by:

(1) the reference required by 35 U.S.C. § 120 and 37 CFR 1.78(a)(2) of the prior-filed application, unless previously submitted;<sup>1</sup>

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<sup>1</sup>Any nonprovisional application or international application designating the United States of America claiming the benefit of one or more prior-filed copending applications or international applications designating the United States of America must contain or be amended to contain a reference (amendment to the first line of the specification following the title or in an application data sheet (ADS) to each such prior-filed application, identifying it by application number (consisting of the series code and serial number) or international application number and international filing date and indicating the relationship of the applications. Cross references to

(2) the surcharge set forth in § 1.17(t); and

(3) a statement that the entire delay between the date the claim was due under 37 CFR 1.78(a)(2) and the date the claim was filed was unintentional. The Commissioner may require additional information where there is a question whether the delay was unintentional.

The present pending application was filed on 25 August, 2003, and was pending, at the time of filing, of the instant petition. A reference to the above-noted, prior-filed nonprovisional applications has been included in an amendment to the first sentence of the specification following the title, which was filed concurrently with the present petition under 37 CFR 1.78(a)(3).

The present nonprovisional application was filed after 29 November, 2000, and the claim for priority herein is submitted after the expiration of the period specified in 37 CFR 1.78(a)(2). Also, the reference to the prior-filed nonprovisional applications was submitted during the pendency of the nonprovisional application for which the benefit is sought. See 35 U.S.C. § 120. Accordingly, having found that the present petition satisfies the conditions of 37 CFR 1.78(a)(3) for acceptance of an unintentionally delayed claim for priority under 35 U.S.C. § 120, the petition to accept an unintentionally delayed claim to benefit to prior-filed Application Nos. 09/699,852, 08/823,824, and 08/195,889 is granted as of the date of filing the petition.

The benefit claim has been entered in Office records. A corrected Filing Receipt accompanies this decision.

The granting of the petition to accept the delayed benefit claim to the prior-filed applications under 37 CFR 1.78(a)(3) should not be construed as meaning that the instant application is entitled to the benefit of the prior-filed applications. In order for the instant application to be entitled to the benefit of the prior-filed applications, all other requirements under 35 U.S.C. § 120 and 37 CFR 1.78(a)(1) and (a)(2) must be met.  
Similarly, the fact that the corrected Filing Receipt accompanying this decision on petition includes the prior-filed applications should not be construed as meaning that applicant is

entitled to the claim for benefit of priority to the prior-filed applications noted thereon. Accordingly, the examiner will, in due course, consider this benefit claim and determine whether the instant application is entitled to the benefit of the earlier filing date.

The application will be referred to Technology Center 2800 for processing the amendment filed with the present petition, and for consideration by the examiner of the claim under 35 U.S.C. § 120 and 37 CFR 1.78(a)(3) for the benefit of the above-noted, prior-filed nonprovisional applications.

Telephone inquiries related to this decision should be directed to Senior Petitions Attorney Douglas I. Wood at 571-272-3231.

*Frances Hicks*  
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for Patent Examination Policy

Encl:      Corrected Filing Receipt